## An Offering Of Original Prints

— by —

## CURRIER & IVES

From the Collection of

Q. DAVID BOWERS



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#### INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the terrific response to my first catalogue of Currier & lves prints. Now in your hands is my second catalogue. Enjoy!

I began collecting Currier & Ives prints when I was a Penn State University in the 1950s. These are Americana at its finest, and I pursued them with great enthusiasm. Then as now, choice examples were not easy to find. My sources included the Old Print Shop and Kennedy Galleries in New York and John Howell in San Francisco.

As time went on, I bought, sold, traded, and upgraded the collection. Recently the passing of Paul Richards (prominent dealer in autographs, collector of fine prints and antique glass, and student of the life of Theodore Roosevelt) resulted in about \$5 million worth of his antique items coming on the market, providing an opportunity to acquire certain Currier & Ives prints that had not been available for many years. These had been used to decorate his beautiful home in Templeton, MA.

Each print has been matted and quality framed. Each print is ready to hang in your living room or office and for you to enjoy. Each print will come with a letter from me attesting to its authenticity and its having been part of my collection.

—Dave Bowers

#### TERMS OF SALE

Wrapping, packing, and shipping is extra and will be billed at your expense, which will normally run about \$20 for a Small Folio, \$35 to \$75 for a Medium Folio, and \$100 to \$200 for a Large Folio. Each print will have its glass (but not frame border) criss-crossed with masking tape, then encased with bubble wrap, and then in layers of cardboard. Shipping will normally be UPS Second Day Air.

Color snapshots are available of any print for \$1 each, refundable if you buy the print. Each print is one-of-a-kind in my possession and is offered subject to prior sale or price change without notice.

I guarantee that you will find each print to be an Nathaniel Currier or Currier & Ives original, a nice example of its variety, and pleasing to your eye. Any print not 100% pleasing can be returned within 10 days of receipt for a full refund.

To order call me (Dave Bowers) at Bowers and Merena Galleries, toll-free at 1-800-222-5993, or send a fax message to: 1-603-569-5319.

### A BIT OF HISTORY

What today are known as original Currier & Ives lithograph prints were printed in New York City beginning in the 1830s by Nathaniel Currier (life dates 1813-1888). In 1852 James M. Ives (life dates 1824-1895) joined the firm. He became a partner in 1857. The firm lasted under that name until it was dissolved in 1907.

Early prints bear the imprint of "N. Currier." Later ones are imprinted "Currier

& lves." The typical print also includes a title, copyright information, and in some instances (such as for certain shipwrecks, excursion boats, and clipper ships) brief historical information.

The firm catered to the public taste and produced many different motifs. Subjects included scenery, hunting and fishing, political figures, news events (ship disasters, etc.), animals, old mills, life on the farm, life indoors or in town, winter and summer scenes, trains, the American West, and just about anything else Currier & Ives thought would be well received.

Each print was drawn on stone (litho=stone; graph=drawing; thus lithograph) printed with black ink, and then colored by hand by artists hired especially for that purpose. Because each was custom colored there are variations among prints of the same subject. In general, the Large Folio prints were more elaborately and painstakingly colored than the Small Folios, but all are attractive so as to appeal to buyers at the time.

Of the over 5,000 subjects made over the years, there are perhaps 500 really great subjects, depending upon with whom you discuss the matter. Twice a consortium of dealers and others has put together "Best 50" lists. Some on the "Best 50" list I personally think are great; others less so. The prints offered here are in each instance ones that I found attractive to own and display.

While there are many nice books on Currier & Ives (check your local library), a particularly elegant one is *The Great Book of Currier & Ives America*, by Walton Rawls, Abbeville Press, NY, 1979. All but one of the prints is reproduced, many in vibrant colors, from the Harry T. Peters Collection at the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

#### SIZES

Today, collectors and museums group Currier & Ives prints into three main categories, none of which is precisely defined:

Small Folio: Small-size prints with image size measuring approximately from about 12" wide and about 8" high. In frames the prints are considerably larger. I list the image size (height then width) followed by the overall exterior dimensions of its frame.

Medium Folio: Medium-size prints with image size measuring approximately from 13'' to 19'' wide and about 9'' to 10'' high. Frame dimensions are larger.

Large Folio. These are the *creme de la creme* of Currier & Ives prints, the classics. Fortunately, I have been able to acquire a nice number of really fine subjects, sometimes waiting a long time for the opportunity to do so. Large Folio prints have an image size measuring approximately from 20" or more wide and about 14" or more high. Frame dimensions are larger.

In all instances, the printing below the picture is not included in the image size. Each print is attributed by its "Conningham number" (as listed in Frederic A. Conningham's Currier & Ives Prints: An Illustrated Check List, Crown Publishers, 1930-1983, and by "Gale number," Currier & Ives: A Catalogue Raisonné, Gale Research Co., 1984.

# AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE/ SUMMER'S EVENING (Large Folio)

Artist:

Frances F. Palmer



Conningham-124; Gale-137. \$2,350. Image Size: 16-1/2" high x 23-3/4" wide

Date of Issue: 1855. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 28-3/4" high x 35-1/4" wide

Description of view: An ideal family scene. Husband and wife stand beneath a spreading tree while two children frolic near their feet; in the background another child is among cows near a fence; a group of farm workers loads hay on a wagon drawn by two horses; in the distance is a village with homes and a spired church. Central to the painting is a very ornate three-story Victorian home complete with octagonal cupola on the top, decorative "gingerbread" trim, and all other accouterments. Bright colors.

# AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE/ OCTOBER AFTERNOON (Large Folio)

Artist:

Frances F. Palmer



Conningham-122; Gale-135. \$2,550. Image size: 16-1/4" high x 23-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1855. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 29" high x 35-1/4" wide

Description of view: Two hunters and a young boy return home to a woman and child at the yard gate, the hunters with rabbits and birds. Two dogs yelp in the foreground. In the background is the requisite Victorian mansionesque house, in this instance complete with large front porch, second story deck, and widow's walk. Details in the background are always interesting in Currier & Ives prints, and this one shows a farmhouse, a horse and rider, and in the distance two ships on a river or lake.





### AMERICAN FARM SCENES (MATCHED SET OF 4 LARGE FOLIOS)





Conningham-133, 134, 135, 136, Gale-148, 146, 147, 149. Matched set of four related prints as issued: \$26,000.

Date of issue: 1853. N. Currier. Image size:  $16 \ 1/2'' \ high \times 23 \ 3/4'' \ wide$  Total size as framed, each:  $30 \ 1/4'' \ high \times 36'' \ wide$ .

Description of views: Four matching prints from one of Currier & Ives' most famous and most desired sets. Farm scenes, each different, are shown in the four seasons of the year. Matted and in matching frames. Spring: Farmer plowing behind oxen guided by a boy. In the background are a manse and barn. Summer: A woman is in the foreground as are farm animals, ducks in a pond in the center background, and a farmhouse. Autumn: Farmhouse and animals in the fall. Winter: A rare and highly desired print, this snowy winter scene shows two horses drawing a sleigh aboard which are a man, boy, and milk cans. Old and New Best 50.



### ARGUING THE POINT

(Large Folio)

Artist: Arthur F. Tait

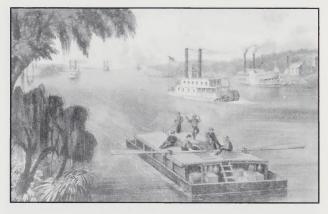
Conningham-265; Gale-287. \$5,550. Image size: 18-1/4" high x 24" wide

Date of issue: 1855. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 25-1/4" high x 31-1/2" wide

Description of view: A very colorful scene—virtually like an oil painting—of three men seated, one holding a newspaper and undoubtedly discussing a popular topic of the day—what could it have been in 1855—slavery, foreign trade, expansion of the frontier, or what? We will never know. A little girl tugs at the pant leg of one of the conversants, while her mother calls from the porch of a log cabin in the background. Lots of interesting detail. Citation: New Best 50.

### BOUND DOWN THERIVER

(Small Folio)



Conningham-627; Gale-702. \$1,400. Image size: 7-3/4" high x 12-1/2" wide Date of issue: 1870, Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 17" high x 21" wide

Description of view: This scene is worthy of something from Huckleberry Finn or Life on the Mississippi—young men—five of them—relax on top of a wooden raft-barge, one dancing a jig while the other plays a violin, one in the rear steering the boat by a tiller, and in the foreground various cargo including what seem to be hams and roped onions dangling from a crossbar. In the background are seen five steamers including a two-story sternwheeler directly behind, and in the distance a sidewheeler of the "palace" type with ornately trimmed decks. Citation: Old and New Best 50.

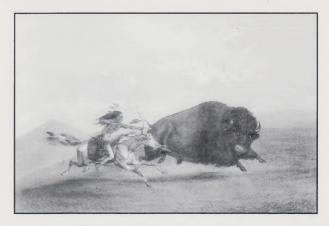
### BROADWAY. NEW YORK/ SOUTH FROM THE PARK (Small Folio)



Conningham-699; Gale-782. \$900. Image size: 7-3/4" high x 12-3/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 14" high x 18" wide

Description of view: A beautiful scene showing Broadway with people in all sorts of activities—a man summoning a horse-drawn taxi, a boy hawking newspapers, a man and woman with parasol strolling, gentleman greeting each other, and more—with P.T. Barnum's American Museum in the background.



### THE BUFFALO CHASE/ SINGLING OUT

(Medium Folio)

Artist: George Catlin

Conningham-723; Gale-809. \$2,700. Image size: 11-3/4" high x 18" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 24" high x 28-1/2" wide

Description of view: The great buffalo (bison) of the West is here the object of the hunt. An Indian mounted on a white steed is at the buffalo's flank and draws back his bow. Green prairie grass, rocky hills in the background. From an original painting by George Catlin, adapted by Currier.



# THE BUFFALO DANCE/TO MAKE THE BUFFALOES COME

(Medium Folio)

Artist: George Catlin

Conningham-724; Gale-810. \$2,950. Image size: 12" high x 17-1/2" wide Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 19-1/2" high x 24" wide

**Description** of view: Colorful tribal dance of Native Americans as depicted from life by George Catlin and adapted by Currier.

### BURNING THE CLIPPER SHIP "GOLDEN LIGHT" (Small Folio)

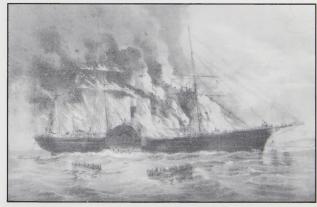


Conningham-740; Gale-825. \$650. Image size: 8-1/4" high x 12-1/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 15" high x 18-3/4" wide

Description of view: A large, long clipper ship is on fire, but as yet the sails are relatively untouched. In the right foreground are five filled lifeboats and several floating casks on gently rolling seas. The "newsline" below the title notes, "The Golden Light sailed from Boston to San Francisco February 12, 1853, 9 p.m. on the 22nd, during a thunderstorm, she was struck by lightning and set on fire and at 6 p.m. the 23rd all hands were driven to the boats, leaving the ship entirely in flames."

### BURNING OF THE STEAMSHIP "GOLDEN GATE" (Small Folio)



Conningham-749 or 750; Gale-834 or 835. \$675. Image size: 8" high x 12-1/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 13-1/2" high x 17-1/2" wide

Description of view: Nearly all of the deck and much of the rigging are engulfed in flames, while hapless passengers crowd forward on the bow and the stern, with a few particularly unfortunate ones amidships. Three filled lifeboats are seen in the foreground. Blue-gray waters reflect the fire, while bright yellow and orange flames dominate the scene. With "news-line" below title, "On her voyage from San Francisco to Panama having on board \$1,400,000 in treasure, 242 passengers, and a crew of 95 persons of whom only about 100 are known to have been saved."



### "COMET" OF NEW YORK

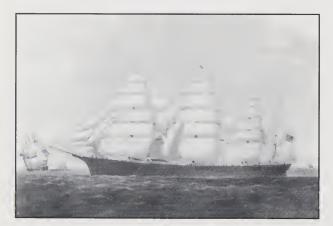
(Large Folio)

Artist: Charles Parsons

Conningham-1140; Gale-1257. \$4,950. Image size: 16-1/2" high x 23-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1855. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 28" high x 36-1/2" wide

Description of view: The Comet is shown in a hurricane off Bermuda on a voyage from New York to San Francisco, October 1852—nice connection with the Gold Rush era. The unfortunate Comet has had the cloth ripped from most of her sails and is awash in high seas, with a life boat at the stern seemingly about to be upended.



### CLIPPER SHIP "GREAT REPUBLIC"

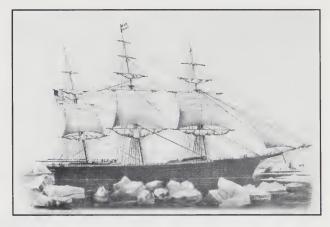
(Large Folio)

Artist: James E. Butterworth

Conningham-1146; Gale-1263. \$3250. Image size: 16" high x 23-1/4" wide Date of issue: 1853. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 27-3/4" high x 35" wide

Description of view: A superb classical Currier & Ives print showing a magnificent three-masted clipper ship, with sails fully billowed. This vessel was built by Donald McKay at East Boston, MA, and was one of the most famous in the clipper ship service, which mainly went to San Francisco and the Orients. The artist, James E. Butterworth, was one of the most famous painters of clipper ships.

## CLIPPER SHIP "RED JACKET" (Small Folio)



Conningham-1166; Gale-1282, \$985. Image size: 10-1/4" high x 14-1/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 15'' high x 18-3/4'' wide

**Description of view:** This magnificent queen of the seas is shown amid ice floes off Cape Horn on the way from Australia to Liverpool, England. Although the ship does not appear to be moving and, in fact, if it were it would soon run into ice, several of the sails are fully billowed—artistic license.

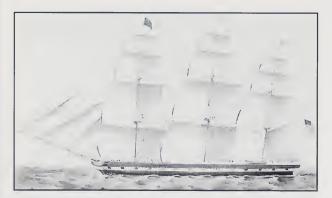
## THE EXPRESS TRAIN (Small Folio)



Conningham-1794; Gale-1946. \$2,400. Image size: 8-1/2" high x 13-3/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 14" high x 18" wide

**Description of view**: A commanding view of a steam locomotive, quite ornate with an eagle over the bell, and other accouterments, a blue baggage car immediately behind the wool tender, and then seven passenger cars filled with travelers.



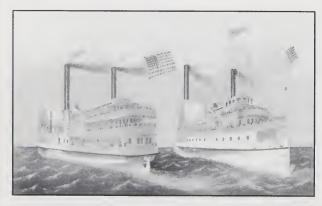
GEM OF THE PACIFIC

(Small Folio)

Conningham-2229, Gale-2416, \$675. Image size: 8-1/2" high x 12-3/4" wide

Date of issue: 1849, N. Currier. Total size as framed: 15" high x 18-3/4" wide

Description of view: Fully rigged magnificent clipper ship.



PALACE DRAWING ROOM STEAMSHIPS IN THE WORLD. "DREW" AND "ST. JOHN"

GRANDEST

(Large Folio) Artist: Charles Parsons

Conningham-2541; Gale-2694. \$3,450. Image size: 21" high x 34-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1878, Currier & Ives Total size as framed: 38" high x 48" wide

Description of view: A very detailed, quite ornate scene with bold lettering at the bottom, almost like a poster or advertisement, certainly intended to advertise the two "palace drawing room steamers" which went every evening on the Hudson River between New York and Albany. To the left and right schedules are given. The St. John has three decks, the top two of which are crowded with passengers, while the Drew is differently configured but seemingly equally well populated.

## HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

(Small Folio)



Conningham-2861; Gale-3094. \$780. Image size: 8" high x 12-1/4" wide

Date of issue: 1870. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 15" high x 18-3/4" wide

**Description** of view: Colorful snowy scene of log cabin in the woods, mother holding child's hand, feeding chickens, small boy leading a horse and walking behind his father, and another small boy skating on a pond. **Citation:** New Best 50.

# LIFE OF A FIREMAN/ METROPOLITAN SYSTEM

(Large Folio)

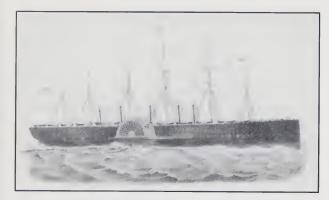
Artist: John Cameron



Conningham-3516; Gale-3784. \$5,600. Image size: 16-3/4" high x 25-3/4" wide

Date of issue: 1866. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 29" high x 37" wide

Description of view: This is the classical fire engine print by Currier & Ives, and shows two horses pulling an Amoskeag-type steam pumper fire engine, trimmed in brass, and billowing smoke and sparks, headed toward a raging fire in a city block. Other firemen run on foot toward the conflagration. The entire scene is illuminated by the blaze. Nathaniel Currier himself was a volunteer fireman, and such prints were among his favorites. Citation: Old and New Best 50.



MAMMOTH IRON STEAMSHIP "LEVIATHAN" (Small Folio)

Conningham-3960, Gale-4295. \$350. Image size: 9-1/2" high x 14-1/2" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 14" high x 19" wide

Description of view: Depicts this nautical wonder noting that its length was 680 feet and, parenthetically, "over 1/8 of a mile," diameter of sidewheel 60 feet, and other details. In keeping with many other vessels of its era, it was well equipped with auxiliary sails just in case—or to save fuel when a strong wind occurred.



MILL DAM AT SLEEPY HOLLOW

(Large Folio)

Conningham-4124; Gale-4491. \$1,900. Image size: 14-1/4" high x 30-1/2" wide

Date of issue: Undated, Currier & Ives Total size as framed: 26-1/4" high x 30-1/2" wide

Description of view: A classic scene with water-powered mill in the background, millpond (with weeping willows along the shore) and a fisherman on the dam bridge, a mansion in the background (probably the mill owner's), and more.

### NEW ENGLAND WINTER SCENE

(Large Folio)

Artist: George H. Durrie



Conningham-4420; Gale-4801. \$12,500. Image size: 16-1/4" high x 23-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1861. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 28-1/4" high x 34-1/2" wide

Description of view: A great Currier & Ives classic, this shows a man holding his horse, dog at his feet, opening the gate to the snowy farmyard. In the distance a man is feeding chickens while a cow looks on. A young boy is standing near a woodpile next to the two-story home. They don't come nicer than this! Citation: Old and New Best 50.

### THE OLD HOMESTEAD IN WINTER (Large Folio)

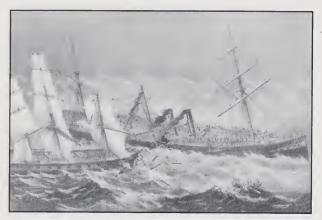
Artist: George H. Durrie



Conningham-4563; Gale-4950. \$9,500. Image size: 18-1/2" high x 26-1/4" wide

Date of issue: 1864. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 30" high x 37-1/2" wide

Description of view: This is one of the great classics among Currier & lves prints, a winter scene with farmhouse, barn, and other trappings including the owner(?) and his horse in a doorway. A snowy yet colorful scene.

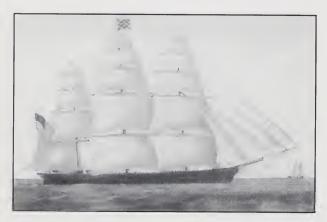


SINKING OF THE STEAMSHIP "VILLE DU HAVRE" (Small Folio)

Conningham-5534; Gale-5928. \$325. Image size: 8-1/2" high x 12-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1873. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 15-1/2" high x 18" wide

Description of view: This is a "news scene" and shows the steamship, its decks crowded with passengers, and a sailboat nearby, with life boats as well as individual passengers in the water, accompanied by a caption which tells all about it, the tale of a voyage from New York to Le Havre and the unfortunate incident that happened at sea on November 22, 1873. In the era in which newspapers were black on white, this colorful scene with red smokestacks on the ship, red lifeboats, blue-green ocean, gray skies, etc., certainly must have been dazzling—as it remains today.



NEW YORK
CLIPPER SHIP
"CHALLENGE"

(Small Folio)

Conningham-4439; Gale-4826. \$1,100. Image size: 8-1/2" high x 12-1/2" wide

Date of issue: Undated. N. Currier. Total size as framed: 15" high x 18-3/4" wide

Description of view: Fully rigged clipper ship sailing on a fairly smooth sea. Several seamen are seen on the decks. A smaller ship is in the right background.

### THE SNOWSHOE DANCE

(Medium Folio)

Artist: George Catlin



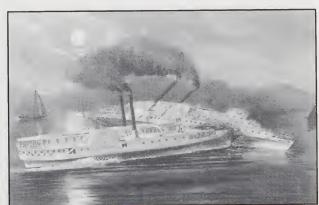
Conningham-5579; Gale-5977. \$2,850. Image size: 11-3/4" high x 17" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 24-1/2" high x 29-1/2" wide

**Description** of view: A group of 10 native Americans on snowshoes engaged in the dance in question, each dressed in feathers, with beads, and fringed leggings. Adapted by Currier & Ives from one of Catlin's famous western scenes, delineated from actual experience.

TERRIFIC
COLLISION
BETWEEN THE
STEAMBOATS "DEAN
RICHMOND" AND
"C. VANDERBILT"
NEAR RONDOUT, ON
THE HUDSON RIVER,
SEPT. 19111, 1867

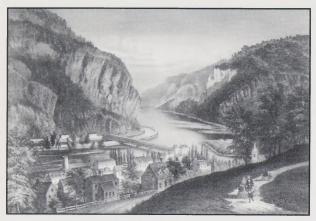
(Small Folio)



Conningham-5994; Gale-6462. \$980. Image size: 8" high x 12-1/2" wide

Date of issue: 1867. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 15" high x 19" wide

Description of view: Moonlight scene of a disaster that occurred on the Hudson River near Rondout on September 19, 1867, by which the *Dean Richmond* was sunk and several lives lost. The unfortunate *Dean* is shown on her side, but with the stacks still belching red fire and black smoke, while the *C. Vanderbilt* is shown embedded near the prow of the former, but otherwise in seemingly intact condition, although the passengers are quite frightened. The song, *Moonlight on the Hudson*, didn't quite have this scenario in mind!

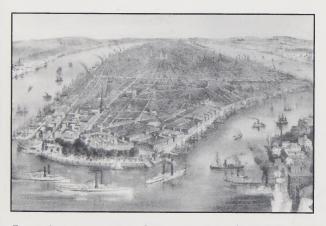


VIEW OF HARPERS FERRY, VA./FROM THE POTOMAC SIDE (Large Folio)

Conningham-6395; Gale-6908. \$1,400. Image size: 14-3/4" high x 20-1/4" wide

Date of issue: Undated. Currier & Ives. Total size as framed: 25-1/2" high x 30" wide

Description of view: Panorama drawn from high on a hill overlooking the Potomac River. Shows this village built in a narrow gap on the river, with factories in the foreground, a covered bridge, a train in the distance, and for good measure some strollers including a boy rolling a hoop in the right foreground. Very colorful.



VIEW OF NEW YORK (Small Folio)

Conningham-6399 or 6400; Gale-6911 or 6912. \$950. Date of issue: 1869. Currier & Ives. Image size: 8-1/4" high x 12-3/4" wide

Total size as framed: 13" high x 17-1/4" wide

Description of view: A commanding view of Manhattan Island taken from a bird's eye perspective in New York harbor. In the foreground is the Battery, to the left is the circular Castle Garden (where Jenny Lind gave a concert at one time), and up and down the east and west sides of Manhattan are countless sailing ships at their berths or awaiting positions. Several steam powered vessels are seen as well.

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